Sanskrit Sansthan has given financial assistance to NGOs which run traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas and to institutions recognized as Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All the schemes being run through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), have an inbuilt mechanism for post-sanction monitoring and review. Where misuse of funds by such organizations is substantiated, action is taken under the relevant provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act/Criminal Procedure Code, in consultation with the State Government. There are also provisions for blacklisting NGOs, which are then, no more Entitled for Government Grants. The Government, from time to time, also reviews and modifies the existing schemes with a view to plug the loopholes in the schemes, if any.

Perpetuation of reservation

*362. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has opined that "Quota can't remain forever and must come to an end one day as if it is perpetual, the entire objective is defeated";

(b) if so, the present policy of Government with regard to reservation in educational institutions; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the Supreme Court's observation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Since the constitutional validity of the Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005 and the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, is *sub-judice* before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India, it would not be proper for the Central Government to comment on any opinion or observation in the matter. The Central Government is committed to promote the educational advancement of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the other Socially and Educationally Backward Classes of citizens under Article 15(5) of the Constitution.

Scheme for development of agriculture sector

†*363. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry and the Ministry of Earth Sciences have formulated an ambitious scheme for strengthening and encouraging agriculture sector in the country;

(b) whether the Ministry has made efforts for achieving four per cent growth rate in agriculture sector; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Arising from the recommendations of the National Development Council to plan for a 4% annual growth rate in agriculture, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences held a brainstorming meeting seeking Science and Technology ideas and inputs that contribute to achieve the set objectives. As an outcome of the meeting a Task Force has been established to facilitate and monitor the following initiatives, (i) information outreach and reach out programmes; (ii) showcasing of successful/proven technologies; and (iii) exploratory time targeted studies/development programmes. Time bound action initiated.

Expenditure on technical education

†*364. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Board on Education has recommended that it is necessary to spend 0.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product on technical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and whether the said Committee has also given suggestions for expansion of technical education in the country; and

(c) if so, the suggested percentage of expansion required in the existing technical education system?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India had constituted in September, 2004, a Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to examine in detail the subject of "Financing of Higher and Technical Education". The Committee in its Report submitted in June, 2005, *inter-alia*, recommended, that with respect to State funding for higher education, as a thumb rule, 50 per cent of the total education budget should be allocated to the elementary education and for the balanced development of all levels of education, 25 per cent has to be allocated to the secondary education and the balance 25 per cent should go to the higher and technical education. The Committee further stated that the suggested normative ratios assume significance if the total allocation to education is raised to the level of six per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP). This would mean that higher and technical education would together get about 1.5 per cent of the GNP with approximately 1.0 per cent of GNP for the higher education and 0.5 per cent of the GNP for the technical education. As per the Committee, hardly 0.4 per cent of GNP was being spent on higher education and 0.1 per cent of GNP on technical education. The Committee has emphasized the critical need for a significant growth in financing of the higher education, which includes technical education. The Committee has suggested quantitative expansion of higher education including technical education alongwith quality and equity.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.